

Central Area Council Budget Proposals 2022-2025 Officers Report

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with advice from the Area Manager (AM) on aspects of budget proposals to inform future commissions.

Background

The Council adopted our current model of Area Governance in April 2013 working to guiding principles to build stronger, more skilled, and resilient communities.

Area Councils are assigned the equivalent of £100k per Ward base budget therefore the Central Area Council (CAC) receives £500k per annum to spend to commission local services to serve communities within the Central Area against priorities set by the CAC.

In its inception year, the CAC did not spend its base budget and has since used the underspend that has been carried over year-on-year as required in line with the CAC vision and mission. This has gradually depleted as it has been spent throughout this time.

Robustness of Estimates

This report identifies potential risks associated with the setting of this budget however, some of the financial risks are fluid and not quantifiable but if unchecked could pose a threat to our financial stability and our commissioned services.

Financial Strategy and Budget Commitment Measures

A balanced budget can be delivered through the agreement of the proposals within the projections to 2025, however, this is contingent upon the additional matters' details below.

1. That the Council maintain our base budget for CAC at £500k.
2. The implementation of projects delivered within the scope of the budget.

It is likely that projects will require further efficiencies to deliver services within the financial envelope due to the rising cost of living, specifically fuel and energy.

In addition to the known pressures over the planning period, any additional pressures from here on in will need to be contained within the ongoing resource envelope, if for whatever reason projects are not achievable within this then the AM will instigate a budget review with the Central Area Council.

Budget Recommendations

As indicated in Appendix 1 of this report, the 3-year forecast sets a balanced budget to 31st March 2025.

The proposals identified within the budget papers provide the foundations around delivering the CAC's priorities in line with Barnsley 2030 and the Barnsley Plan.

Context and Risk

The context remains a challenging one as we are still recovering from the Coronavirus pandemic and ongoing challenges that new variants and case rises bring. This puts pressure on our commissioned services, and they have continued to be agile and adaptive to change with all providers delivering against agreed outcomes and outputs to help us to build our borough back 'fairer and better'.

The rising cost of living and lack of any clarity about government funding, means great financial uncertainty for the Council (as a whole) over the next few years and beyond and the Leader has informed us of preparations for this including a moratorium on spending that was announced at the end of September and a Transformation Programme that all service areas across the council will take part in.

Area Councils are well placed to support the increasing demand on public services to tackle poverty and address the related inequalities through our innovative commissioned services and by building community capacity.

The AM will continue to pursue external funding opportunities with colleagues and the Council continues to pursue external funding streams that may create opportunities for the CAC.

The CAC plays a key role in Barnsley 2030 which sets out the Councils long-term vision for Barnsley and how we will work together with our communities to achieve it.

The Council Plan supports Barnsley 2030 over the next three years, delivering the borough's vision: 'Barnsley - the place of possibilities'. The plan gives us a clear direction to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build our borough back better and fairer. The CAC plays a key role within the plan, it focuses on how we collectively deliver our services across the council to best support residents, communities, partners and business and it provides the framework for making decisions about priorities in the council and helps drive performance by setting out what we are seeking to achieve and how it will be measured (Council plan 3.2).

The Councils medium-term financial strategy sets out nine design principles within its planning and prioritising of resources to achieve 2030 ambitions and the council plan.

The CAC plays a key role as all services must consider enabling more people to help themselves and each other:

Through customer insight, early help, early intervention, prevention, and a strengths-based approach to delivery. the following as part of their business planning and developments: The CAC takes an assets-based community development approach to all it does, and most commissioned services deliver early help and prevention projects.

- The CAC works closely with community groups and organisations to support them with community asset transfer and to make best use of community buildings. This will support the Council to rationalise its estate, reducing the number of face-to face delivery locations and ensuring that where possible delivery sites are co located alongside other public services:
- Area offices are local hubs for people to drop in and our officers spend much of their time in local communities, supporting residents and providing a friendly accessible and trusted face. This supports the Council to move more transactions with residents online, but still allow telephone and face-to-face delivery for those who require it most.
- The Area Governance model supports innovative and creative opportunities to build stronger and more resilient communities. We look at more creative ways to influence the behaviour of residents that better helps themselves and reduces costs to the Council.
- Our ongoing community listening, engagement and tentacle like reach into our communities makes the CAC key to providing the information to provide the temperature checks needed to support service redesign. This supports the Council to consider the needs of Communities/Neighbourhoods to inform service redesign.

Area Council Expenditure over the last two years

Figure 1

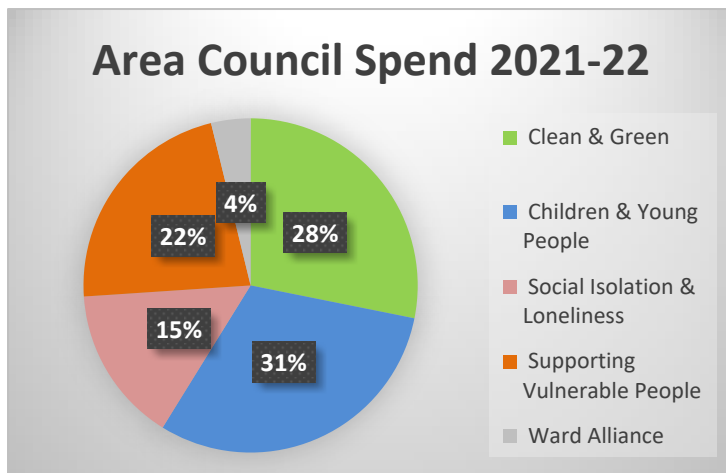
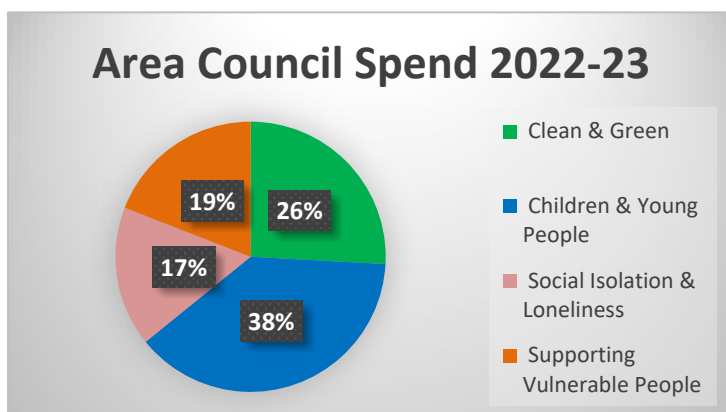


Figure 2



Future

The key focus of this strategy is to delivery CAC priorities.

The carry forward position will continue to reduce year on year to maintain existing services. To mitigate for the unquantified emerging risks, it is now considered appropriate to request that the CAC keep a contingency as carry forward to cover any unexpected risks to services to ensure that the CAC can respond to emerging need.

This will ensure that the CAC is well placed to deal with any further adverse changes to the current assumptions. This position will be kept under constant review being mindful of the emerging risks identified elsewhere within this report.

Options

Committed expenditure is shown in black on the spreadsheet Appendix 1 to this report. Any other non-committed expenditure can henceforth be considered by the Central Area Council.

As there are so many variables, the recommendations below have been made by the Central Area Council Managers in consult with the Area Chair. This provides a prudent budget, with a contingency to be able to respond to emerging need over the period to the 31st March 2025. Any future carry forward (if contingency is unused) could maintain and/or develop new services into the financial year beginning 2025 (after a full review of priorities) or to devolve additional funds to Ward Alliances (if required).

This budget delivers against the CAC priorities and is in line with Barnsley Councils strategic ambitions.

Recommendations

The key considerations that have not already been committed are detailed in the recommendations below. All recommendations would need consultation with strategic procurement to ensure commissioning compliance. All other committed decisions have already been agreed through the Central Area Council governance process.

Creating a Clean and Green Environment:

Recommended Option 1a: do not develop services to the previously earmarked £50k for environmental education and bring the funds back into the main commissioning budget

Option 1b: leave £50k budget earmarked to respond to issues emergent from the borough wide Litter and Envirocrime Strategy

Financial Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Twiggs Clean & Green	110,000	110,000	110,000
BMBC Fly Tipping	35,000	35,000	35,000
TOTAL	<u>145,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>
<i>% of Total Spend</i>	26%	26%	26%

Social Isolation and Loneliness

Recommended Option 2a: extend existing grants for a further year with a small cost of living increase as per the table below

Option 2b: do not extend the existing grants and look at alternative options to open a new Social Isolation fund

Financial Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Age UK	39,936.76	42,000	TBC (spreadsheet figures remain indicative only of maintaining financial envelope)
Reds in the Community	14,601.48	15,500	TBC (spreadsheet figures remain indicative only of maintaining financial envelope)
Mind	39,432.60	41,800	TBC (spreadsheet figures remain indicative only of maintaining financial envelope)
TOTAL	<u>93,970.84</u>	<u>99,300</u>	<u>TBC</u>
<i>% of Total Spend</i>	17%	18%	

Supporting Vulnerable People:

Recommendation 3: commission services with a financial envelope of £65,000 pa

Financial Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
BMBC Housing Officer	35,000	35,000	35,000
Creative Recovery	7,500	15,000	7,500
DIAL	30,900	-	-
CAB	30,000	-	-
Hope (Cheeky Monkeys)	3,605	-	-
NEW Supporting Vulnerable People Fund		65,000	65,000
TOTAL	<u>107,005</u>	<u>115,000</u>	<u>107,500</u>
<i>% of Total Spend</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>19%</i>

Building the Emotional Resilience and Children and Young People:

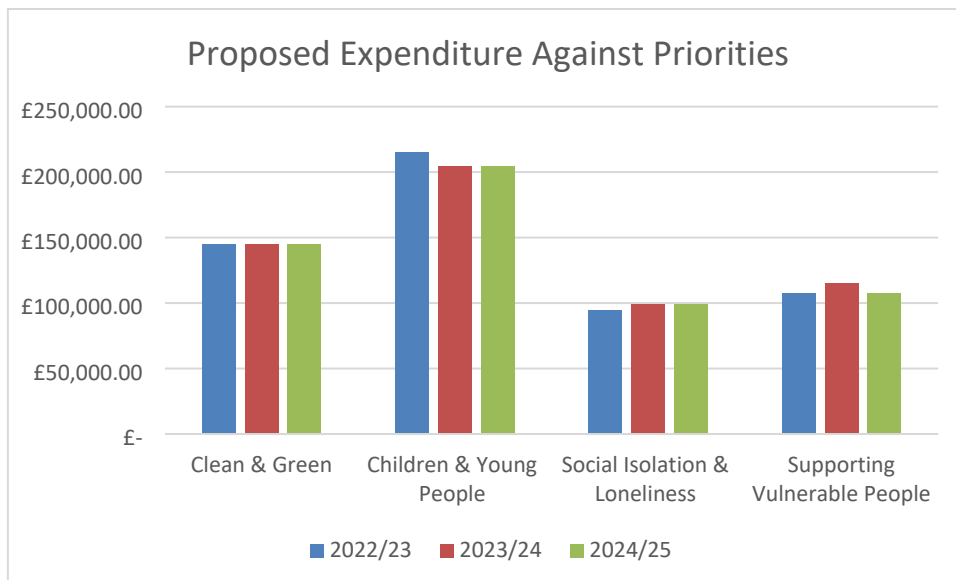
Recommendation 4: extend grants to maintain detached Youth Work to March 2024

Recommendation 5: commission new CYP Emotional Resilience Service with a marginally reduced financial envelope of £140k

Nb. The Area Manager is working with colleagues to identify other sources of funding for the youth work training fund

Financial Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
YMCA Emotional Resilience Contract	140,330	-	-
NEW Emotional Resilience Contract		140,000	140,000
Youth Association – Detached Youth Work	39,000.00	52,000	TBC (spreadsheet figures remain indicative only of maintaining financial envelope)
YMCA – Detached Youth Work	9,700.50	12,395	TBC (spreadsheet figures remain indicative only of maintaining financial envelope)
Youth Work Fund	25,685.75	-	-
TOTAL	<u>214,716.25</u>	<u>204,395</u>	<u>204,395</u>
<i>% of Total Spend</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>37%</i>

Figure 3



References

Barnsley Council Medium Term Financial Strategy
Barnsley 2030
Our Council Plan 2021-2024

APPENDIX 1

Central Area Council - Budget Forecast Recommendations 2022-2025										
Income	Priority	2022/2023			2023/2024			2024/2025		
Central Area Council Allocation		£		500,000.00	£		500,000.00	£		500,000.00
Carried forward from previous year		£		214,028.45	£		153,336.36	£		89,641.36
Other Funding Applications TBC										
Total Available Spend:		£		714,028.45	£		653,336.36	£		589,641.36
Expenditure - Service / Provider		2022/2023			2023/2024			2024/2025		
		Committed	Under consideration	Future Proposal	Committed	Under consideration	Future Proposal	Committed	Under consideration	Future Proposal
Clean & Green	C&G	£ 110,000.00			£ 110,000.00			£ 110,000.00		
Targetted Fly tipping and Waste Collection Education	C&G	£ 35,000.00			£ 35,000.00			£ 35,000.00		
Emotional Resilience Contract - YMCA	CYP	£ 140,330.00			-			-		
Youth work fund - YMCA & Youth Ass.	CYP	£ 15,685.75						-		
Voluntary Youth Support (for consideration CAC Feb 22)	CYP	£ 10,000.00			-			-		
Youth Work Fund (agreed CAC Feb 22) YMCA & Youth Association	CYP	£ 48,700.50			£ 64,395.00			£ 16,098.00		£ 48,297.00
NEW CYP Emotional Resilience	CYP					£ 140,000.00			£ 140,000.00	
Social Isolation Challenge Fund	SI	£ 93,970.84				£ 99,300.00				£ 99,300.00
Central Well Being Fund - Dial	SVP	£ 23,175.00	£ 7,725.00		-					
CAB Service	SVP	£ 30,000.00			-					
Creative Recovery	SVP	£ 7,500.00			£ 15,000.00			£ 7,500.00		
NEW Supporting Vulnerable People Fund	SVP					£ 65,000.00			£ 65,000.00	
Private Rented Tenancy Support	SVP + C&G	£ 35,000.00			£ 35,000.00			£ 35,000.00		
Central Well Being Fund - Hope House	SVP + CYP	£ 3,605.00	-		-					
Totals:		£ 552,967.09	£ 7,725.00	£ -	£ 259,395.00	£ 304,300.00	£ -	£ 203,598.00	£ 205,000.00	£ 147,597.00
total anticipated contract spend:		£		560,692.09	£		563,695.00	£		556,195.00
In Year Balance		£		153,336.36	£		89,641.36	£		33,446.36